

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 161211Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SDLP CONVENTION MEMBER CHARGES LOCAL SECURITY  
FORCES HAVE SWITCHED ALLEGIANCE

REF: (A) BELFAST 204, 1974 (B) BELFAST 133, 1974  
(C) BELFAST 131, 1974

1. IVAN COOPER CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION MEMBER FROM MID-ULSTER FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HAS ISSUED SWEEPING CHARGE THAT ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) RESERVE, AND SIZEABLE NUMBER OF MEMBERS REGULAR RUC HAVE TRANSFERRED LOYALTIES FROM CROWN TO UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC). COOPER ADDRESSED WARNING TO SECRETARY OF STATE REES THAT THESE FORCES WOULD HELP ESTABLISH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN UDI SITUATION. COOPER BASED ASSERTION PARTIALLY ON CLAIM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT IN HIS CONSTITUENCY UUUC HAD DIRECTED LARGE NUMBERS ADHERENTS TO ENLIST IN VARIOUS PART OR FULL TIME SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS.

2. DEMOCRATIC AND VANGUARD UNIONISTS REACTED STRONGLY TO COOPER CHARGE. REBUTTALS CENTERED AROUND SDLP RELUCTANCE  
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TO ENUNCIATE SUPPORT FOR SECURITY FORCES OR SUPPORT

RECRUITING WHILE AT SAME TIME CALLING FOR LAW AND ORDER.  
OFFICIAL AND POLICE FEDERATION REACTIONS HAVE BEEN TO  
REAFFIRM CONFIDENCE IN LOYALTY SECURITY FORCES AND DENY  
THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.

3. THERE IS PROBABLY SOME ELEMENT OF FACT IN COOPER  
ALLEGATIONS AT LEAST TO EXTENT THAT ENLISTMENT IN RESERVE  
FORCES AND RUC HAS BEEN HEAVILY PROTESTANT. THIS HAS  
BEEN PATTERNS SINCE 1969 BUT IT BELIEVED THAT FOLLOWING  
HMG REFUSAL TO PERMIT FORMATION "THIRD FORCE" MID-1974  
THERE HAS BEEN CONCERTED EFFORT ON PART FORMER "B-SPECIALS"  
AND OTHERS TO ENLIST IN PART TIME SECURITY FORCES (REFTELS).  
CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT BY NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT TO  
BRING REGULAR RUC UP TO STRENGTH BY GIVING RECRUITING  
PREFERENCE TO CATHOLICS HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL.  
IT ALSO BELIEVED GOVERNMENT HAS EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE  
CONTROL OVER ADMISSIONS TO ALL BRANCHES OF SECURITY FORCES  
FOLLOWING DELIBERATE POLICY TO EXCLUDE EXTREMISTS. MOST  
POTENT FORCE IN ANY UDI SITUATION WOULD BE UDR WHICH HEAVILY  
ARMED AND ORGANIZED IN LOCAL UNITS ALONG MILITARY LINES.  
LOYALISTS WHO MOST FAVOR FORMATION "THIRD FORCE" PUBLICLY  
HOWEVER HAVE CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED PRIMARY NEED FOR FORCE  
WAS TO PROTECT HERETOFORE DEFENSELESS SMALL RURAL SETTLEMENTS  
FROM PROVISIONAL IRA. WHILE THERE ELEMENTS WITHIN UUUC  
WHICH CONTEMPLATE UDI CONTINGENCY WITH SOME FASCINATION,  
UP TO NOW THEY HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED BY THOSE FAVORING  
CONTINUED LINK OR EVEN INTEGRATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, ALLEGATIONS, POLICE FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BELFAS00174  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750173-0587  
**From:** BELFAST  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750542/aaaablml.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BELFAST 204, 75 1974, 75 BELFAST 133, 75 1974  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SDLP CONVENTION MEMBER CHARGES LOCAL SECURITY FORCES HAVE SWITCHED ALLEGIANCE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, UK, (COOPER, IVAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006